## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

## 

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release OCTOBER 12, 1962

AMERICA DRIVES TO REHABILITATE ITS FISHING INDUSTRY

The most intensive oceanographic research program in America's history, part of an Administration drive to rehabilitate the Nation's fishing industry, was cited today by Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall as "a vital part of an unequalled conservation record attained to date through Departmental actions and those of the 87th Congress."

His remarks accompanied the submission of a 32-page report outlining what he termed "an all time high water mark in conservation and resource management."

The report's section on oceanography cites the "long-overdue recognition" provided marine research, involving the building of three new ocean-going laboratories, the conversion of two Navy tugs for the same purpose and the commissioning in early 1963 of the all-season, all-weather Albatross IV. During coming months, work also will start on new fisheries research laboratories at LaJolla, Calif., Ann Arbor, Mich., Beaufort, N. C., and Seattle, Wash.

Additional recognition of the growing need for knowledge, particularly among young students, of our fishery resources, was provided by Congress in authorizing expenditure of \$10 million to provide the Nation's Capital with one of the world's outstanding fishery research centers and aquarium.

"Fishing as a U. S. industry has in many areas lagged competitively behind other nations that are making great technological strides," Secretary Udall said.

"To restore the prosperity of the U. S. fishing industry and to guarantee consumers ample supplies of this protein rich food, accelerated programs are underway involving laboratory research, ocean surveys, construction of hatcheries and fish survival facilities at dams, and provisions for industry loans.

"Additionally, through research conducted by Bureau of Commercial Fisheries scientists, the United States has now taken a lead in an intensified program to

develop a marketable fish protein concentrate which not only can provide an important economic stimulus to the domestic fishing industry, but can provide a dramatic new answer to the world's hunger problems," he said.

Secretary Udall estimated there are approximately from seven to nine million tons of fish not presently harvested in U. S. waters that can be utilized to produce FPC--fish protein concentrate.

"Processing FPC will allow our fishing fleets to become year-round operations, rather than seasonal," he said.

Other high points in the conservation accomplishments report included:

- 1. An unprecedented program to aid cities in acquiring "open space" was enacted;
- 2. A vigorous new Water Pollution Control Act is mounting a full-scale attack on one of our most destructive forms of waste;
- 3. National investment in water conservation and development projects has reached an all-time high, including two major reclamation projects.
- 4. In unparalleled action for parkland preservation, three new superb national seashores were created—Cape Cod on the Atlantic Coast, Padre Island on the Gulf Coast of Texas, and Point Reyes on the Pacific Coast north of San Francisco.
- 5. Pursuant to the recommendations of the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission, the Administration established a Bureau of Outdoor Recreation. It has also recommended sweeping new programs to assist States planning farsighted outdoor recreation programs and legislation to establish a land conservation fund to meet growing needs for outdoor recreation purposes.
- 6. Congress approved a long-range Wetlands Acquisition Bill making it possible to establish new waterfowl refuges amounting to more than 100,000 acres-more than in any period of recent history.
- 7. Administratively, action was taken to make suitable public lands available to State and local governments at nominal cost for parks and wildlife refuges—and similar action has been taken to make military land available for such conservation purposes.

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